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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commissioner Sivarajah to Lead State Newborn Hearing Screening Committee

Anoka County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah has been selected to serve as vice chair of the Minnesota Newborn Hearing Advisory Committee for 2010 and chair in 2011. Sivarajah was appointed to the committee by Governor Pawlenty in September 2007 shortly after the committee's creation.

The Minnesota Newborn Hearing Advisory Committee was formed in conjunction with legislation signed into law in 2007 mandating hearing screening for newborns. The committee oversees the protocols used by physicians and hospitals in screening newborns and the steps to follow should newborn hearing loss be detected.

“It's an honor to accept this leadership role with a committee that is doing such important work for Minnesota's newest citizens,” said Sivarajah. “As the parent of a child with a hearing loss, I recognize the importance of early identification as it gives children access to language and learning opportunities during those first three years, which are so critical for social, emotional, and academic growth.”

Sivarajah, of Lino Lakes, represents District 6 in Anoka County. Sivarajah is a member of the AG Bell Association for the deaf and hard of hearing, and president of the Northern Voices Board of Trustees. Northern Voices is an oral school for the deaf and hard of hearing in Roseville.

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